Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 30, 2025

Dorothy Fink Acting Secretary U.S. Department of Health and Human Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201

Jeff Wu Acting Administrator Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services 200 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC 20201

Dear Acting Secretary Fink and Acting Administrator Wu,

We write to you today to express our concern regarding the recent action taken on January 20, 2025, by President Donald Trump to rescind Executive Order 14087, Lowering Prescription Drug Costs for Americans.

Executive Order 14087, issued by former President Joe Biden, created a pathway for the development and evaluation of new healthcare payment and delivery models through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services. These innovative models were designed to lower drug costs, promote innovation, and increase access to diverse therapies and treatment options.

The former Administration worked collaboratively across the agency to identify three model concepts that would accomplish these objectives:

- Medicare \$2 Drug List Model
- Cell and Gene Therapy Access Model
- Accelerating Clinical Evidence Model

These concept models were designed to enhance the prescription drug provisions in the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. Over 40 external stakeholders evaluated these model options under the direction of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' Center for Medicaid and Medicare Innovation, taking into account their ability to meet the strategic priorities of the Administration and the needs of the American people. Each model holds significant potential to address affordability, equity, and access to critical treatments. Understand that 3 in 10 adults report not taking prescribed medicine at some point in the past year due to the rising costs.¹ In addition, brand prescription drugs are consistently rising faster than the rate of inflation making it difficult for Americans to choose between their health and other household expenses.² The revocation of this Executive Order will jeopardize these initiatives and obstruct the advancement of healthcare equity.

Therefore, we the undersigned seek clarification on the impact of President Donald Trump's Executive Order, rescinding Executive Order 14087, and ask the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide answers to the following:

¹ <u>https://www.kff.org/health-costs/poll-finding/public-opinion-on-prescription-drugs-and-their-prices/</u>

² <u>https://www.cms.gov/priorities/innovation/data-and-reports/2023/eo-rx-drug-cost-response-report</u>

- 1. How will the rescission of Executive Order 14087 impact the development and implementation status of current models proposed under Executive Order 14087?
- 2. How will the Department of Health and Human Services work with the Centers for Medicare and Medical Services (CMS) to address gaps created by the rescission?
- 3. What initiatives will be implemented to address gaps in access to innovative therapies that impact vulnerable communities?

We remain deeply invested in the equitable delivery of healthcare services. The pursuit of this effort requires innovation, ingenuity, and intentional commitment. We must protect and advocate for the interests of the American people by putting them first and ensuring that they have access to quality health care.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter. We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Shontel M. Brown Member of Congress

Nydia M. Velázquez Member of Congress

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John Garamendi Member of Congress

Raúl M. Grijalva Member of Congress

Summer L. Lee Member of Congress

Kristen McDonald Rivet Member of Congress

John B. Larson Member of Congress

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Rashida Tlaib Member of Congress

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